The plant with plump-lenticular achenes is widely dispersed from Egypt to Senegal, but the Asiatic material which Beetle has marked *S. uninodis* in the Gray Herbarium has 3 styles and trigonous cuneate achenes. So far as I can find most critical students refer the Asiatic material to *S. supinus* L. Our *S. Hallii* with plano-convex and sharply and transversely ribbed achenes has little, except habit, in common with it. The African plant, as shown by Leprieur's material of it, has such different scales (almost uniformly colored, chartaceous and readily splitting under pressure) and such different achenes (much plumper than in ours and only obscurely cross-marked) that I am content to leave the plant of the United States as *S. Hallii* Gray. It would be almost if not quite unprecedented that an endemic plant of the United States should be a variation of an endemic of North Africa.

Beetle places *S. Hallii*, as *S. uninodis*, var. *Hallii*, under a division of his key with "Sheaths bladeless". Delile, in describing *Isolepis uninodis* said "Chaque chaume . . . terminée par une pointe courte foliacée"; and it is difficult to collect *S. Hallii* at its eastern Massachusetts station without getting blades up to 1 dm. long. Furthermore, in describing *S. Hallii* Gray correctly said "stems . . . sometimes 1-leaved above the middle", and the TYPE shows blades up to 1.5 dm. long. It is feared that in his treatment of the group the author of the recent study has relied more upon variable and inconstant vegetative characters than upon more stable and fundamental ones of the reproductive structures.

THE FERNS AND FERN ALLIES OF LOUISIANA.—Drs. Brown and Correll have recently given us an excellent treatment of the *Pteridophyta* of Louisiana.[1] The book is unusually complete and accurate and presents a wealth of detail. Each of the sixty-six species, varieties, forms and hybrids is amply described. The species are illustrated by half-tones and notes of special interest on distribution, ecology and history are freely included. The phytogeography of an unusual element of northern species that occurs in the state is discussed in detail. Among the ferns it is represented by *Adiantum pedatum*, *Diplazium acrostichoides* and *D. pycnocarpon*.

[1] BROWN, C. A. AND CORRELL, D. S. The Ferns and Fern Allies of Louisiana. i–xii, 1–186. *f. 1–49*. Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press. July, 1942. $3.00.

The keys to the families, genera and species are well constructed and the contrasting characters have been carefully chosen. An ample glossary and bibliography are included. The authors have studied material in thirteen herbaria and the specimens upon which their study is based are cited. This puts the entire treatment on a firm basis of fact. It is an excellent example of how technical data can be added to a popular treatment without detracting from its value as a book that can be used by the layman.—R. M. Tryon, Jr., Dartmouth College.

Pentstemon laevigatus a Misnomer.—In determining the species of a *Pentstemon* collected early in July along a brook in a field below Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire, difficulty was experienced because of a discrepancy between the material and the descriptions in Gray's Manual. Although in all other respects the plants corresponded to *P. laevigatus* Ait. var. *Digitalis* (Sweet) Gray, they showed decussate lines of pubescence along the internodes, whereas the description of the species reads "glabrous to the inflorescence." The specific name in itself refuted this identification yet no other possibility appeared.

An examination of the material at the Gray Herbarium disclosed the fact that all the specimens that had ever been attributed to either *P. laevigatus* or the variety *Digitalis* have the same general type of pubescence as that observed in the Pinkham Notch material. Decussate lines of pubescence are always present in the two lowest internodes. These in many cases persist up to the inflorescence or to a node short of it, but are increasingly inconspicuous at each higher internode. In some specimens the hairs become diffuse on the higher internodes although the decussate distribution reappears close to the nodes.

Hence it appears that an oversight, which has persisted from the time of Aiton, resulted in the attribution of an inappropriate name to *P. laevigatus* and also in incorrect descriptions throughout the literature.—Jeannette E. Graustein, Women's College, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware.

Volume 44, no. 527, including pages 414–452 and plates 725–736, was issued 7 November, 1942.